



# PERTH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

April 2015

## Our musical treasures

**J**ust a few days to go before Music Camp and our Annual Concert and it is hard to imagine where time has gone this year. Our busy musical programme has taken us to the Annual Childline Concert and to Perform in Perth already and we look ahead to our performance at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. It will be only our second time on the Fringe despite performing in and around it for almost 35 years.

Earlier this term we became aware of spending cuts and proposals that struck at the heart of instrumental tuition and orchestral music in Perth and Kinross.

Working together with the Young Musicians Parents Association, and on your behalf, we expressed our concern at the proposed cuts in funding to the Instrumental Music Service (IMS); the prospect of substantial fee increases; possible cuts in staffing levels; possible loss of residential music camp; and the proposal to move IMS to a separate trust.

As a committee we believe that these proposals will have a detrimental impact on PYO, its current and future members and we asked that Perth and Kinross Council would seek to meet with us to discuss their plans.

### We believe that:

- fee increases make music more elitist and less accessible to those from low income families.
- a reduction in provision will mean fewer children having the opportunity to play musical instruments in PYO and other music groups. It will also lead to fewer children having the opportunity to play unusual or expensive instruments, such as oboe, bassoon, French horn and double bass. There is al-

ready a shortage of players for some instruments.

- a reduction in staff numbers would also put extra strain on the remaining staff who already give up a lot of time to help with PYO and other instrumental music groups.

- the loss of music camps would be a great sadness for many children. For some children music camp is the first time they have been away from family overnight and gives them their first experience of independence. It would also reduce standards as enormous progress is made at music camps when there is time to practise intensively over several days instead of just a couple of hours per week.

- if IMS were to be run by a separate trust, it would no longer be a priority for the council. We are also concerned that it could detrimentally affect children who want to learn a musical instrument as part of National 5 or Higher music. Currently Instrumental Music tutors are an integral part of the school system, helping to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence. This would be more difficult if they were no longer employed by Perth and Kinross council.

- the Instrumental Music Service is already oversubscribed with children who want to learn a musical



instrument. If provision is decreased many more children will be disappointed and will miss out on the great opportunity of learning to play an instrument and the experience of playing in an orchestra.

### PKC Response

In response Perth and Kinross Council sought to reassure us that there were no plans to increase fees or reduce the level of instrumental tuition in the area.

Perth and Kinross Council leader, Councillor Ian Miller writes (11th February 2015), "in its February 2014 budget the council agreed to review the way in which a number of its services are delivered and how these might be delivered or commissioned in the future.... the review is at an early stage and a number of options and models are being investigated".

He added, "a report will be taken to the Council later this year to enable elected members to consider the initial findings and recommendations for further actions".

### Get your voice heard

It is only at this late stage that plans would be set out for consultation with the key stakeholders affected by the proposals.

Respond to the IMS music survey on <http://pkc.Music-Tuition.sgizmo.com/s3/>

The survey is open to anyone who has an interest in music provision in schools. It can be made available in other formats and IMS staff can provide paper copies for those unable to access the online link; let the school know about your children's repeated success and growing confidence as a result of being involved with the orchestra; speak to your local councillor

and let them know too, about what a great service we have in Perth and Kinross; support your children at their performances. We must be seen to value the musical treasures that we have.

The current consultation period runs until April 24th don't miss the opportunity. Write to Helen Smout, Service Manager, Culture, Cultural and Community Services, Perth and Kinross Council, Pullar House, Perth PH1 5DG, [HSmout@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:HSmout@pkc.gov.uk)

**2016 Tour**

**WHERE?**

**4th-11th July?**

**MORE DETAILS INSIDE**

**PYO  
Committee  
2014-15**

**Honorary President**  
Rachel Weiss  
friends@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

**Vice-President**  
Julia Park

**Honorary Treasurer**  
Steffi Anderson

**Honorary Secretary**  
**Susannah Rae,**  
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**Tour Coordinator**

**Andrew Mitchell**  
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**Child Protection**  
Sarah Paterson

**Members**  
Susan Coe  
Irene Watt  
Mary Woodhead

**Tutor Representative**  
Morag Young

**Orchestra Reps**  
Shona Rae  
Ruairidh Clarke

**Conductor**  
Allan Young

**PERTH YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
Conducted by Allan Young

**Annual Concert**

**7.30pm,  
Sunday, 12th April 2015**

**Perth Concert Hall**

*Featuring*

Danzon (Marques)

Bruch's Romance op 85  
Soloist Neil Coe (viola)

Albinoni's Concerto No.2 in D Minor  
Jamie Salem Dalgety (oboe)

Pictures at an Exhibition  
Mussorgsky

£11 (includes booking fee)

Kids and School Pupils go Free

*Reception for Friends, Sponsors and Soloists  
- 6.45pm in the Norrie Miller Suite*

A group of parents and friends  
of Perth Youth Orchestra  
will join in the

**ERROL CAR  
BOOT SALE**

**on Sunday 31st May  
8.30am-3pm**

**If you wish to fill your car  
boot with items to sell -  
the cost is £13**

**We are seeking donations  
to boost our sales**

Items that sell well include  
Practical household goods, cutlery,  
crockery, kitchen things, lamps! etc  
Tools (even if slightly damaged)  
& DIY goods and working electrical goods  
computer games & working 'brown goods'  
even if old e.g. tape player  
small items of furniture  
good quality practical clothes including  
school clothes and baby goods

**Donations of items  
can be handed in  
at rehearsals prior  
to 31st May**

**This will be the first  
fund raising event for  
the next tour**

**ON SALE IN THE FOYER  
AT THE PYO CONCERT**

**Souvenir PYO China Mugs**

**PYO Pens, Pencils, Keyrings,  
Pin Badges, Trolley Coin Keys**

**PYO  
CEILIDH**

St Matthew's  
Church Hall

**Saturday  
28th  
November**

**Fund raising event**

**BAG PACKING  
MORRISONS**

**Saturday 3rd October**

***In aid of tour funds***

**PYO  
RACE  
NIGHT**

Would you like  
to help organise  
or sponsor  
this event?  
Please  
contact us



# PYO gets set for 2016 tour

**P**erth Youth Orchestra has enjoyed a series of successful concert tours across the UK and in Europe over the past fifty years. Previous tours have taken the orchestra to performances in England, Spain, France, Germany, Netherlands, Estonia, Poland and Italy.

Each one has brought great acclaim for the orchestra, both abroad and at home. They have provided the finest opportunities for our young musicians to perform to the highest level.

Plans for 2016 are already well underway and our destination is Prague, capital city of the Czech Republic.

Musical talent has long flourished in Prague and in the 17th and 18th centuries it was known as the conservatory of Europe.

After leaving Vienna, Mozart found a receptive audience here, and wrote a symphony to his adopted home (Symphony No 38).

Prague is also the birthplace of the great composers Antonín Dvořák, Leoš Janáček and Bedřich Smetana.

The Perth Youth Orchestra committee feels confident that it can support plans for a concert tour in July 2016 and is seeking sponsorship on your behalf to ensure that it is affordable to the greatest number of families.

The proposed tour dates are from Monday 4th – Monday 11th July 2016, and are subject to confirmation.

At this stage please check them against your family holidays,

school trips and other potential clashes.

Early estimates of the cost suggest that it will be no more than our last tour - £995.

We can also give guidance and support to families who may wish to do their own personal fund raising.

It is likely that there will be a discount for second and subsequent family members in the orchestra.

The tour is open to all our existing members and some places are being held for the new players who will successfully audition for the new season.

Families will be contacted early next month with an invitation to express an interest in taking part in the tour.

This will be followed, in May, with more detailed information, and a request for a formal commitment to the tour.

If your child wishes to join the tour, a deposit will be requested on 25th June, with 12 monthly instalments to follow.

If you would like additional information at this stage please contact Andrew Mitchell - our tour secretary: telephone 01738 628039 [tour-coordinator@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk](mailto:tour-coordinator@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk)

## The Barnett Formula for Success



Louis Barnett - PYO's founding conductor

**F**or the present members of PYO the 1960s are probably like the dark ages, but the impact that Louis Barnett made all these years ago is as vivid to me now as it was at the first rehearsals of the orchestra. There is no doubt in my mind that PYO would never have got going without Louis Barnett.

At a time when the musical and political establishment of Perth were at best lukewarm to the idea of a youth orchestra, he pretty much single handedly got the whole idea off the ground. He wouldn't take no for an answer. After all he had already been instrumental in setting up Perth Symphony Orchestra in the early fifties, so why not a youth orchestra?

### What was he like?

An amazing mixture, an individualist certainly, and as an ex-military musician, (hence I guess his being called Reg). There was absolutely no doubting his discipline...always "Mr Barnett", and he certainly had no patience with timewasters or anyone who wasn't serious about orchestras - that went for players as well as the local authority.

A disciplinarian maybe, but also someone of humour, intelligence,

principle and sensitivity.

My mother was on the first committee and always remarked on his reports, models of the English language, and always filled with kind encouragement and 100% support for those who supported him.

That discipline and his charismatic though self effacing personality, would indicate a natural conductor. He was certainly that, but virtually no other conductor in my experience has been as selfless; it was all about the orchestra and the young people, never about him.

It was absolutely typical that he and co-founder John Davie returned the tiny honorarium they were offered, so as to boost the fund for instruments.

In the early days instruments were in short supply.

The Euphonium is hardly an orchestral instrument of note, and

## Memories from my days in Perth Youth Orchestra

by  
**Donald Maxwell**

was certainly something of a misnomer in my hands, but I was recruited to play a bassish line, laboriously arranged and handwritten by Mr Barnett, to cover for the lack of horns, bassoons, trombones and double basses. Changed days now.

With Mr Barnett I learned the lesson.... 'watch the conductor'. Now I find myself still looking at conductors.. at times in the vain hope of either help or inspiration.

His energy and enthusiasm were immense and his untimely death could easily have meant the end of the whole idea.

The seed he planted had however taken root, and over fifty years on it is a pleasure to see it flourishing so marvelously.

My interest in music was transformed by Louis Barnett. An amazing legacy for Perth and a remarkable man.



Donald Maxwell

Donald Maxwell is a British operatic baritone, director and teacher. He has sung with all of the leading British opera companies, as well as La Scala, Milan, Metropolitan Opera, Paris Opéra, Vienna ..

## Dates for Your Diary

5 – 10 April 2015	Senior Music Camp
12 April 2015	PYO Annual Concert Perth Concert Hall
24 May 2015	Perth Festival of the Arts Service St John's Kirk, Perth
31 May 2015	Car Boot Sale (Errol)
26 August 2015	Edinburgh Festival Fringe - Greyfriars Kirk
31 August 2015	Autumn Concert Perth Concert Hall
15 September 2015	New member auditions
28th November	Ceilidh at St Matthew's

If you know any former members who would like to donate their PYO skirts or ties to the orchestra, please contact a committee member. We'd be most grateful for any such donations.

## Auditioning for a solo spot

PYO Concerto Auditions were held on March 3rd at the Music Centre in St John's Academy and yet again there was an excellent evening of music for those family members and friends who came along to support the young musicians taking part.

In all there were twelve entries competing to perform with PYO and/or Senior Strings, including one duet partnership. Strings, woodwind, brass and piano all featured, with repertoire ranging over the centuries from Bach to John Williams.

Sandra Taylor from Fife kindly agreed to act as adjudicator again, and her task was made extremely difficult by the uniformly high standard of performance.

Finally it was an-

nounced that Jamie Salem Dalgety (Albinoni Oboe Concerto in D minor) and Neil Coe (Bruch Romance for Viola) were selected to perform as soloists with PYO at the annual concert on April 12th, with Stephen Smith being chosen to play the first movement of the Reiding violin concerto with Senior Strings at their music camp concert.

These auditions always make for an inspiring evening, and if you have never been along to listen, put it in your diary for next year, especially if you think you might as-

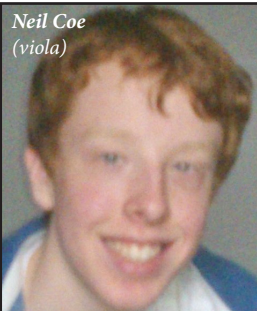
pire to be the one on the stage in a year or two.

It is a good learning experience for musicians and parents alike. Thanks must go to all who auditioned, and to their tutors and family for encouraging them in the hard work of preparation.

All who attended were impressed by the talent and commitment of our musicians, and the dedication of the amazing staff of tutors led by Allan Young.

A special thanks to Mo Rutherford, who accompanied many of the performers so capably.

Neil Coe  
(viola)



Jamie Salem Dalgety  
(oboe)



## New Generation of Friends say 'Count Me In'

Perth Youth Orchestra committee agreed to offer FREE membership of the Friends of Perth Youth Orchestra, (for the coming year), to those orchestra players who have now left at the end of the 2013-2014 season.

Clearly this is intended to sustain our links with these young musicians as they set off on their chosen paths - many of them leaving Perth for a while.

There is no need for money - not even a promise of a standing order! All we ask for is an email address/ land address where we can keep

you in touch with our events.

In April 2016 your membership will be due for renewal and we hope, at that stage, you will choose to set up the £2 per month subscription that others have done before you - helping to fund the very successful orchestra you came to love.

**FREE membership is not automatic - you need to contact us:**

**friends@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk** - Subject 'COUNT ME IN' - giving us your contact details. Thank you.



**We invite you to join the Friends of Perth Youth Orchestra, who donate £24 or more annually to the orchestra. In previous years this has helped buy new percussion instruments and fund the tour.**

Friends receive regular newsletters and updates about the orchestra's activities and their name are listed in concert programmes, unless requested otherwise.

If you or any of your friends or relations would like to support the orchestra in this way, please download a form from our website or pick up a leaflet at a concert, or email:

*friends@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk*

**On Twitter @PYOPerth**

[www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk](http://www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk)